

Exhibit 3: Project Letters

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0024 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(916) 319-2024
(916) 319-2124 REDISTRICTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DISTRICT OFFICE
COLUMBIA STREET
DIEGO, CA 92101
(619) 645-3090
FAX (619) 645-3094

Assembly
California Legislature



LORI SALDAÑA

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-SIXTH DISTRICT
CHAIR, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CHAIR, HOUSING AND
ELECTIONS AND FAX

NATURAL RESOURCES 1557
VETERANS AFFAIRS SAN

SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIR, BASE CLOSURE
AND REDEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEES:

August 13, 2008

California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear California Coastal Conservancy:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my support for the grant proposal submitted by Endangered Habitats Conservancy. These funds can assist in the removal of invasive species and *Arundo donax* in City Heights, a neighborhood in San Diego.

Although, Swan Canyon is located at the headwaters of Chollas Creek, a sub-area of the Pueblo Watershed, its health is crucial to the region. Decades of development and negative human impact have rendered the watershed unhealthy for wildlife and people. The creek has been listed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an "impaired" body of water due to high levels of toxicity.

By restoring these habitats and increasing the diversity of plant communities, the trophic structure will shift dramatically, enabling native wildlife to be supported. In addition, Swan Canyon's location at the top of the Chollas Creek Sub-watershed provides an important wildlife corridor. The restoration of habitat will also increase the connectivity for wildlife to access other areas of the watershed. Native vegetation and habitat restoration are crucial to the establishment of healthy canyons and watersheds which benefit the region by improving hydrology and water quality while reducing the risk of flooding.

Aquatic Adventures Science Education Foundation, the organization selected to be the project manager, has a history of providing exceptional programs to the residents of the San Diego region. This project will provide a unique opportunity for the restoration of vital habitat that has become increasingly rare in the San Diego region. I encourage the California Coastal Conservancy to give this proposal your highest consideration.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my support for this crucial project. Please feel free to contact me with questions regarding this or any other state related matter at (619) 645-3090.

Sincerely,

S

Lori Saldaña Assembly Member,
76th District

LS:sv

CAPITOL OFFICE:
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4039
FAX (916) 327-2188

DISTRICT OFFICE:
2445 5TH AVENUE, SUITE 200
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
TEL (619) 645-3133
FAX (619) 645-3144

California State Senate

SENATOR
CHRISTINE KEHOE
THIRTY-NINTH SENATE DISTRICT



August 13, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
Fax (510) 286-0470

Sam Schuchat, Executive Director
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
fax (510) 286-0470

Dear Chairman Bosco and Executive Director Schuchat,

I write in strong support of the Endangered Habitats Conservancy proposal to remove *Arundo donax* and other invasive species and restore Swan Canyon within the City of San Diego.

Swan Canyon is a blighted section of Chollas Creek, a sub-area of the Pueblo Watershed. It contains significant amounts of trash and large stands of invasive *Arundo donax*, a non-native plant that destroys habitat and creates unsafe areas where illegal activity is known to take place.

Equally important, *Arundo donax* poses a fire hazard and its presence may lead to increased flooding and erosion. The removal of invasive species and subsequent restoration of Swan Canyon will reduce the number of secluded areas where transient encampments and criminal activity regularly occur. The proposed cleanup will eliminate a significant fire hazard in the community. Restoration will also benefit local wildlife through the restoration of highly disturbed habitat to its natural state.

The Endangered Habitats Conservancy is a well established 501(c)3 nonprofit with local experience in habitat management and stewardship. The project manager for this proposal is Aquatic Adventures Science Education Foundation, a recognized leader in delivering quality programs within the San Diego region.

I urge your support of the Endangered Habitats Conservancy grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine Kehoe".

CHRISTINE KEHOE
Senator, 39th District

CK:ds

STANDING COMMITTEES:

- ENERGY, UTILITIES AND COMMUNICATIONS, CHAIR
- BANKING, FINANCE AND INSURANCE
- BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT
- NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER
- TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING

JOINT COMMITTEES:

- ARTS
- EMERGENCY SERVICES AND HOMELAND SECURITY
- FAIRS, ALLOCATION AND CLASSIFICATION
- FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
- LEGISLATIVE BUDGET COMMITTEE

MEMBER:

- LEGISLATIVE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER CAUCUS
- LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
COUNCILMEMBER TONI ATKINS

THIRD DISTRICT

August 13, 2008

California Coastal Conservancy
Attn: Christopher Kroll
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear California Coastal Conservancy:

I am writing in strong support of the Endangered Habitats Conservancy proposal to the California Coastal Conservancy to address the problems associated with Swan Canyon in City Heights. The canyons in City Heights are an enormous resource providing open space, recreational and educational opportunities, water filtration, wildlife habitat, and rare natural areas within a highly urbanized community. However, in their current state they are encumbered by a suite of challenges including run-off, poor water quality, fill and channelization, substantial colonization by invasive species, occupancy by transient populations, and criminal activity.

Endangered Habitats Conservancy has proposed a collaborative effort to eradicate *Arundo donax* and other present invasive species, and restore an additional two acres within Swan Canyon. Currently there are large stands of *Arundo donax*, which have overtaken hefty portions of the riparian corridor in the canyon. The project will integrate: permitting, obtaining property owner participation, removal and onsite chipping (if possible) of invasive plant material, eight herbicide applications over four years, revegetation with native riparian and upland plant species, and maintenance over four years. This project will be used as a pilot project for future work planned in other City Heights canyons. The opportunity to have these canyons as pristine, natural environments may lead to exceptional benefits for human health and enjoyment, as well as wildlife and water quality.

We are pleased that Aquatic Adventures Science Education Foundation will act as the project manager. Our experience in seeing their other projects is that they truly are successful at following through, creating outcomes, mobilizing volunteers and leveraging resources to reduce costs.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Toni Atkins".

TONI ATKINS
Councilmember, Third Council District

TA:pi

RECEIVED

AUG 20 2008

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

February 4, 2008

Ms. Katt Eaton
Institute for Public Strategies
409 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 305
San Diego, CA 92108

Re: Presentation by students from "Project C" and the
Swan Canyon Restoration Proposal

Dear Ms. Eaton:

This letter is intended to thank you and students, Cervando Jimenez and Luis Cueva, for your presentation to the City of San Diego Open Space Canyons Advisory Committee on January 10, 2008. The Open Space Canyons Advisory Committee is comprised of both community and city representatives and meets quarterly to review programmatic and long term policy issues related to urban canyons, as well as any significant utility proposals. **The Committee would like to express unanimous support for the concept plan for restoration of Swan Canyon in City Heights, including removal of some five acres of Arundo donax, an invasive plant species.**

I am in receipt of your proposal outline that includes, in addition to the invasive plants removal, an enhancement of an existing trail and the creation of an outdoor education area. These are also worthy goals. We look forward to reviewing your full and detailed proposal when it is available in hopes that we can recommend it for any needed approvals from resource agencies or departments within the city. The City of San Diego will need more information specifically regarding funding sources, trail plans, native revegetation/Arundo removal plans, and property ownership for the various project components. A thorough review by the multiple City Departments that have jurisdiction within the canyon will be necessary to ensure the project and any grant proposal will be supported and approved.

We were particularly impressed by your "Canyon Community Connection" project, ("Project C"), which involves City Heights high school students in survey work that will pull together information on the community's concerns and understanding of issues regarding our urban canyon open spaces in City Heights. Raising public awareness concerning trash and pollutants in urban canyons is an important and worthy mission. We look forward to learning the results of your environmental scan to identify sources of trash and illegal dumping.



Exhibit 3: Project Letters

We also thank you for proposing to remove of *Arundo donax*, as well as planning native plant revegetation within the canyon. *Arundo donax* is a noxious weed that crowds out native plant species and is considered by the California Exotic Pest Plant Council (CEPPC), to be among the most invasive of wildland pest plants. Thick stands of *Arundo* create a haven for illegal encampments and are a potential fire hazard. The canyon habitat will be much improved if you are successful.

It is truly wonderful to see this work to engage community members in taking on stewardship roles in their neighborhood canyons and we applaud the Institute for Public Strategies and Aquatic Adventures, and your other community partners, for your efforts.

Below is a list of the organizations, city departments and community representatives that were represented at our January 10, meeting and that concurred unanimously to support the concept of your Swan Canyon Restoration Proposal.

City of San Diego - Park and Recreation Department
City of San Diego - Metropolitan Waste Water Department
City of San Diego - Water Department
City of San Diego - Engineering and Capitol Projects Department
City of San Diego - Development Services Department
San Diego Gas and Electric
Sierra Club, San Diego Chapter
California Native Plant Society
San Diego Mountain Bike Association
Disabled Community representative
Community Planning Group representative
At - Large representative

Sincerely,



Chris Zirkle
Deputy Director, Park and Recreation Department Open Space Division
Chair, Open Space Canyons Advisory Committee
City of San Diego



*Azalea Park
Neighborhood Association*
4338 Manzanita Drive, San Diego, CA 92105

February 5, 2008

Karen Bucey
Chairperson, City Heights Redevelopment Project Area Committee
Member of the Committee

Dear Sirs and Madams:

We, the Azalea Park Neighborhood Association Board are writing in support of the City Heights Canyons Group proposal to address the problems associated with Swan Canyon. The City Heights Canyons Group includes Aquatic Adventures, Institute for Public Strategies, Sierra Club, Project CLEAN, the North Swan Canyon Neighborhood Association and the Swan Canyon Neighborhood Association. They are requesting a grant for \$325,000 from Redevelopment funds to use for professionally eradicating the highly invasive Arundo donax plant and to restore the California native plants. Their plans also include formalizing the trail system in this canyon for use by Hamilton Elementary students as well as the Swan Canyon neighbors. Members of our Azalea Park Neighborhood Association have participated in Swan Canyon clean-ups in the past but the Swan Canyon issues are beyond the scope of mere volunteers. Professionals are needed to eradicate the Arundo. Restoration is also a critical component as is teaching the children to respect the canyon. Swan Canyon could become an example for all urban canyons if this plan could be facilitated.

We respectfully urge you to vote in favor of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Tom Lashbrook, President

Sandy Weeks, Vice-President

Shannon Whitmore, Secretary

Mark Pennington, Treasurer

Robert Walters, Ambassador



South Castle Neighborhood Association

www.southcastle.org

email: southcastle@cox.net

February 12, 2008

Karen Bucey
Chairperson, City Heights Project Area Committee
Members of the Committee

Ms Bucey and Committee Members:

We are pleased to endorse the City Heights Canyons Group's proposed plan to clean and restore our canyons. Having followed the example of Azalea Park and their Manzanita restoration, we have restored our own Cooper Canyon. This experience has taught us of the hard work and diligent upkeep that our canyons require. We have noticed a sharp drop in crime around our canyon and are becoming a very proud neighborhood.

We have assisted the residents of Swan Canyon several times in an attempt to restore and revitalize their canyon. It has become painfully clear that their neighborhood has obstacles with which we did not have to contend. There is a shortage of owner-occupied residences and a large number of apartment complexes. While renters make up a valuable part of City Heights, they produce very few community volunteers. Also, the amount of Arundo and other non-native vegetation far exceeds anything we have had to tackle. With all of our volunteer efforts in Swan Canyon, we have hardly made a dent. We have come to realize that the restoration efforts in Swan Canyon far exceed the capabilities of volunteers. We have reluctantly suspended volunteer efforts targeting the Arundo due to safety concerns.

Feeling very discouraged, we were delighted to hear that a coalition of agencies, groups, and individuals had started working on a plan to fully clean and restore Swan Canyon. Representatives from our association were invited to participate and we are very happy with the outcome. For the first time, there is a plan to professionally eradicate the Arundo and increase accessibility. This project seems very deserving of Redevelopment Funds. This project will increase both housing values, as well as increase revenues for the Fairmount Business Corridor. We encourage the Committee Members to approve the needed funding for this worthy project.

Laurie Carlock, President

Jody Carey, Vice-President

Heather Bentley, Secretary

Dennis Wood, Community Liaison